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Head of Rehab Program Charged with Murder of Patient

A man who operates an alcohol live-in program has been charged with the death of a man who was under the rehab's care last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jason Aviles (dob 3/20/91) of Long Beach faces one count of murder in case BA458474.

Aviles is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. The case was filed for warrant on June 22.

Victim José Sandoval, 60, checked into the Grupo Renacer rehab facility on Aug. 11, 2016, prosecutors said. On Aug. 15, 2016, the defendant, who has no professional medical training, allegedly blocked Sandoval's airway using a spoon and tape and stood on the agitated victim's chest, prosecutors added.

Sandoval died of asphyxia, prosecutors said.

If convicted as charged, Aviles faces a possible maximum sentence of 25 years to life in state prison. Bail is scheduled at \$2 million.

Deputy District Attorney Paul Guthrie is the assigned prosecutor.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Newton Division.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.